

# ***SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES***

***Questions and Answers as You  
Enter This Correctional Facility***



**U.S. Department of Justice  
Federal Bureau of Prisons**

**Y**our health is important to those who work in this facility. Medical staff members are willing to discuss any health concerns you have.

An important health issue is sexually transmitted diseases or STDs. STDs are among the most common infectious diseases in the U.S. Anyone who has unsafe (unprotected) sex can get an STD. If you have had unprotected sex (without a condom) with a woman, you may have come into contact with vaginal fluid and genital sores or lesions. This contact may have exposed you to an STD.

If you have had unprotected sex with a man, you may have come into contact with semen and genital sores or lesions. This contact may have exposed you to an STD.

This information will tell you about common STDs and what their symptoms look like. You may have been infected with an STD in the past. You may have ignored or not noticed the symptoms. Because untreated STDs can cause serious health problems, you may want to be tested. If you have questions about STDs or think you have any symptoms, sign up for sick call. It is okay to ask questions and talk with medical staff members. This information will be handled confidentially.

When you arrive at a Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facility, you are advised in writing of the disciplinary system there. Engaging in sexual acts and/or making sexual proposals or threats to another constitutes a prohibited act (high category), and you are subject to sanctions as defined in the BOP policy on Inmate Discipline and Special Housing Unit.

**Stay Safe: Don't have sex with other inmates.**

## *Things to know about STDs:*

1. Men and women who have any form of unprotected sex are at risk for STDs. This is true regardless of age, race, ethnic background, or income. It is true whether your partners are of the same sex or the opposite sex.
2. You can prevent STDs, and the best way is to avoid having sex. Sex with other inmates is not allowed and can be dangerous.
3. Many STDs can be cured with medicine. Other STDs can be treated to avoid more problems. Even after you have been treated for an STD you can become reinfected. Treatment is not a vaccine; it cannot prevent future infections.
4. You may be infected with an STD and not have any symptoms. If you have had unsafe sex and not been tested for STDs awhile, talk to a health care worker.
5. If you have HIV, being infected with an STD can make the HIV worse.

If you have any questions about STDs talk to: (local facility contact)

## What are common STDs in the U.S.?

STD	Key Facts	Symptoms	Health Problems
<b>Chlamydia</b>	Caused by bacteria spread during vaginal, anal, and oral sex	May or may not be any symptoms	Without treatment:
<b>Gonorrhea</b>	Can be treated and cured with antibiotic drugs	Symptoms can include burning when urinating (peeing)  <b>Men</b> - discharge from penis, burning and itching around the head of the penis, pain or swelling in the testicles (balls)  <b>Women</b> - vaginal fluid that does not look normal, lower abdominal or back pain, pain during sex, and bleeding between menstrual cycles	<b>Men</b> - can spread to the epididymis (a tube that carries sperm from the testis) and cause pain, fever, and sterility  <b>Women</b> - can spread into the womb or fallopian tubes and cause pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and infertility

STD	Key Facts	Symptoms	Health Problems
<p><b>Syphilis</b></p>	<p>Caused through contact with lesions or open sores on the outer genitals, vagina, anus, or in the rectum</p> <p>Sores can also occur on the lips and in the mouth</p>	<p>One or more sores, lasting 3-6 weeks, at the spot where bacteria entered the body; sores will heal but infection remains; may be a rash on the palms of the hands or bottoms of feet; rashes clear up on their own</p>	<p>Without treatment - fever, swollen lymph glands, sore throat, patchy hair loss</p> <p>Later - damage to brain, nerves, liver, bones, joints, eyesight, and death</p>
<p><b>Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)</b></p>	<p>Caused by a virus spread through unsafe vaginal, anal, and oral sex</p> <p>Antiretroviral drugs can help build your body's resistance to deadly illnesses and cancers; they do not cure HIV</p>	<p>You may be infected with HIV and not have any symptoms for 7-10 years</p>	<p>HIV attacks and weakens your immune system; a weakened immune system can lead to serious illness and possibly death</p>

STD	Key Facts	Symptoms	Health Problems
<p><b>Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)</b></p>	<p>Spread through unsafe sex with an infected person</p> <p>There is a vaccine to prevent HBV</p>	<p>About 30% of persons with HBV have no signs or symptoms</p> <p>HBV symptoms: fatigue, abdominal pain, jaundice (yellowish skin), loss of appetite</p>	<p>Chronic HBV infection occurs in about 6% of adults</p> <p>Death from chronic liver disease occurs in about 15-25% of infected persons</p>
<p><b>Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV)</b></p>	<p>Genital herpes can be spread during unsafe sexual contact</p> <p>Antiviral drugs may shorten and prevent outbreaks, but they cannot cure herpes</p>	<p>May cause blisters on or around genitals or rectum; herpes sores on the mouth can also be spread</p>	

## STD

## Key Facts

## Symptoms

## Health Problems

### Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)

Spread through  
unsafe sexual contact

You may have HPV  
and not be able to  
see it; you may  
notice genital warts  
(soft, moist, pink or  
red swellings around  
the genitals)

Infection often goes  
away on its own, but  
HPV that does not  
go away can lead to  
cancer

## ***Talking to the Medical Staff***

If you have had unsafe sex and have not been tested for STDs (or have any reason to think that you may have an STD), talk with the medical staff. Ask any questions you have about symptoms and testing. Even if you were treated for an STD before coming to a correctional facility, if you have had unsafe sex since then you may be infected. The medical staff can provide more information and help you decide about being tested.

If you have an STD and don't get treatment, you may have worse health problems in the future.

## ***If I have an STD, what treatment can I get?***

Getting treated right away will help reduce the long-term problems found with STDs. If you have an STD, your health care provider may treat you with pills, liquid medicine, or a shot. If you are given pills, you must take them just like your doctor tells you to. Do not share pills with partners or friends.

STDs caused by bacteria, such as chlamydia, gonorrhea, or syphilis, can be treated with antibiotic medicines.

STDs caused by viruses, such as HIV and herpes, cannot be cured. You will have these diseases for life. Treatment can help reduce or control these illnesses, but there are no cures.